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Borough of Bridgwater

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st DECEMBER, 1960

B O R O U G H O F B R I D G W A T E R

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE 1 9 6 0

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Vice-Chairman:

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COUNCILLOR W.G. POSKITT

COUNCILLOR MRS. M.E. REES

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF 1 9 6 0

Medical Officer of Health:

R.H. WATSON, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officer (Somerset C.C.)

CHRISTINE M. ROOKE, M.B., B.S.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

R.K. LEAN, F.P.H.I.A.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

C.W. RICHARDS, A.R.S.H., M.P.H.I.A.

R.W.L. REED, D.P.A., M.P.H.I.A.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1960

Health Department,
Albert Street,
BRIDGWATER.

Tel: Bridgwater 2689

July, 1961.

To:

The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of
Bridgwater.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the health of the Borough, and the work of the Public Health Department during the year 1960. The report is set out in the manner of previous years, so that comparison with former reports can easily be made.

Although the difference is rather small, the tendency to which I drew attention last year for the birth rate to increase has continued. The total number of deaths and the local death rate have shown a further decline.

Water shortage in the Borough was not so acutely felt during 1960, mainly because of absence of prolonged periods of dry weather in the summer. Restrictions were placed on the use of hoses for watering gardens and car washing. Nevertheless, the water supply position remains precarious in dry weather and the excellent progress which is being made with the Hawkridge reservoir scheme is therefore particularly welcomed.

The slum clearance programme and the provision of suitable housing by the Council and by private enterprise has proceeded most satisfactorily. The completion of the second phase of the West Street redevelopment by the provision of special bungalows and flats for old people linked with a warden has helped considerably to meet a special need and has been much appreciated.

Once again I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my grateful appreciation to the Members of the Council for the help and consideration which I have received and for the friendly co-operation extended to me by my fellow officers.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

R.H. WATSON.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (acres)	2,083
Population (census 1951)	22,221
Population (Registrar General's estimate) 1960	25,580
No. of inhabited houses on 31st December, 1960	7,670
Rateable value on 31st December, 1960	£ 358,184
Sum represented by 1d rate on 31st December, 1960	£ 1,492

Extracts from VITAL STATISTICS for the year 1960

Live Births.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	224	205	429
Illegitimate	9	16	25
	<u>233</u>	<u>221</u>	<u>454</u>
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population			17.74
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births			5.5
Still Births			10
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live and still births			21.55
Total live and still births			464
Infant Deaths (deaths of infants under one year of age)			9
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births - total			19.82
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births - legitimate			18.65
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births - illegitimate			40.00
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births)			15.42
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births)			11.01
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)			32.33
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)			Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births			Nil

Deaths.

Total number of deaths	288
Death Rate per 1,000 population	11.26

Births.

After allowing for inward and outward transfers the Registrar General's figures show that there were 454 births (233 boys and 221 girls) in the Borough during 1960, being 8 births more than in 1959. Of these births 25 were illegitimate. This is 5.5% of the total live births, as compared with 6.3% in 1959.

The birth rate for any area is dependant on the composition of its population, and the Registrar General provides a comparability factor which is used to enable comparison to be made in the vital statistics of different areas. The product of the local birth rate and the comparability factor for that area is used for this purpose. The birth rate for Bridgwater adjusted in this way is 16.85 per 1,000 of the population, which is more or less what would be expected in a prosperous town with a high employment rate.

Birth rates for Bridgwater and for England and Wales for the past five years were as follows:-

	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
Crude Birth Rate	16.36	16.05	15.83	17.64	17.74
Corrected Birth Rate	15.79	15.25	15.03	16.76	16.85
England and Wales	15.6	16.1	16.4	16.5	17.1

Still Births.

10 still births were registered during the year. All were legitimate. This number gives a rate of 22.03 per 1,000 of the population. The provisional National Rate for 1960 was 19.7 per 1,000 total births.

Deaths.

The number of deaths registered in the Borough during 1960 was 280. Of these 53 were deaths of non-residents and were transferred to the district in which the persons ordinarily resided. There were, on the other hand 61 deaths of Bridgwater residents registered outside the Borough. The total corrected number of deaths assigned to the Borough was 288 (152 males and 135 females). This was 11 deaths less than in the previous year, and gave a crude death rate of 11.25.

This crude death rate cannot be used to compare the mortality with that of other districts, as the populations of all areas are not similarly constituted as regards age and sex distribution. The Registrar General supplies an "Area Comparability Factor" and the crude death rate multiplied by this figure can be compared with the death rate of the country as a whole, or with the mortality of any other local area. The corrected death rate so obtained was 10.47 per 1,000 of the population and this compared with 11.5 for England and Wales.

Death rates for Bridgwater Borough and England and Wales for the past six years were as follows:-

	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
Crude Death Rate	11.92	11.56	11.40	12.09	11.82	11.26
Corrected Death Rate	11.44	10.75	10.37	10.88	10.40	10.47
England and Wales	11.7	11.7	11.5	11.7	11.6	11.5

Cause of Death	M.	F.	Total
All Causes	153	135	288
1. Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	-	-	-
2. Other forms of tuberculosis	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	1	-	1
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	1	1
10. Malignant neoplasm of stomach	2	-	2
11. Malignant neoplasm of lung, bronchus	7	-	-
12. Malignant neoplasm of breast	-	2	2
13. Malignant neoplasm of uterus	-	5	5
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	19	15	34
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-	1
16. Diabetes	-	1	1
17. Vascular lesions of the nervous system	20	28	48
18. Coronary disease and angina	30	16	46
19. Hypertension with heart disease	-	4	4
20. Other heart disease	20	24	44
21. Other circulatory disease	7	10	17
22. Influenza	-	-	-
23. Pneumonia	7	2	9
24. Bronchitis	13	7	20
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	2	1	3
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	2	-	2
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	3	1	4
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	3	-	3
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	2	2	4
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	9	13	22
33. Motor vehicle accidents	2	-	2
34. All other accidents	1	3	4
35. Suicide	2	-	2
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-

As will be seen from the foregoing table, the principal causes of death were as follows:-

Heart disease	94
Cancer	50
Vascular lesions of nervous system	48
Pneumonia and bronchitis	29
Other diseases of circulatory system	17

Deaths. Age Groups 1960.

<u>Age</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Under 1 year	5	4	9
1 - 2 years	-	-	-
3 - 4 "	-	-	-
5 - 9 "	1	-	1
10 - 14 "	-	-	-
15 - 19 "	1	-	1
20 - 24 "	1	1	2
25 - 34 "	-	1	1
35 - 44 "	3	4	7
45 - 54 "	11	3	14
55 - 59 "	15	6	21
60 - 64 "	17	5	22
65 - 69 "	19	20	39
70 - 74 "	19	21	40
75 - 79 "	33	15	48
80 - 84 "	20	26	46
85 and over	8	29	37
	153	135	288

Cancer Mortality.

The number of deaths of Bridgwater residents from cancer was 50 (males 28, females 22), as compared with 45 in 1959. They constitute 17.4% of the total deaths during the year.

The following table shows the localisation of the disease in the 50 cases:-

Localisation	Number of deaths			
	Male	Female	Total	1959
Stomach	2	-	2	9
Lungs	7	-	7	8
Breast	-	2	2	8
Uterus	-	5	5	5
Other and unspecified organs	19	15	34	15
Total	28	22	50	45

The ages at which deaths from lung cancer occurred during the last five years is detailed in the following table:-

Year	Under 15	15/24	25/34	35/44	45/54	55/64	Over 65	Total
1956	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	5
1957	-	-	-	-	2	5	4	11
1958	-	-	-	-	-	7	6	13
1959	-	-	-	-	2	1	5	8
1960	-	-	-	-	-	4	3	7

Infantile Mortality.

9 infants under one year of age died during the year. This gave an infantile mortality rate of 19.82, while the corresponding rate for England and Wales was 21.7.

There were 7 deaths of infants during the first four weeks of life, as compared with 8 during the previous year.

The following table shows the causes of the infant deaths in detail:-

Cause of death	Under 1 week	1 - 4 weeks	1 - 6 months	6 - 12 months	Total under 1 year
Congenital malformations	1	1	1		3
Atelectasis	2				2
Prematurity	2				2
Bronchopneumonia		1			1
Acute gastro-enteritis				1	1
Total	5	2	1	1	9

Deaths from Heart Disease.

Of the 288 deaths, heart disease caused roughly 1 in every 3 (males 50, females 44). It represented 32.5% of the total deaths from all causes and was equivalent to a death rate of 3.6 per 1,000 of the population.

Influenza and Pneumonia Mortality.

There were 9 deaths from these diseases, as against 24 in 1959. The mortality rate per 1,000 of the population was 0.35.

Suicide.

There were two deaths from suicide during 1960. This figure is the same as the previous year.

Inquests.

21 inquests were held by the Coroner in the Borough during the year. Of these 9 were upon residents of the town.

<u>Cause of death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Road accidents	3	-	3
Accidents in the home	1	2	3
Suicide	2	-	2
Natural causes	1	-	1
Total	7	2	9

Population.

The estimated population of the Borough as at June 1960 was 25,580, which shows an increase of 290 over the previous year. The natural increase in the population, that is excess of births over deaths, was 166, and therefore there was a net increase in population of 124 due to immigration.

In a town such as Bridgwater with its diversity of industry and opportunities for employment of varied nature, it is interesting to note population changes and the following table illustrates the trend during the past twelve years:-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population increase</u>	<u>Natural increase</u>	<u>Change due to emigration or immigration</u>
1949	225	172	+ 53
1950	270	119	+ 151
1951	- 450	112	- 562
1952	1,160	92	+ 1,068
1953	200	148	+ 52
1954	160	127	+ 33
1955	200	101	+ 99
1956	240	116	+ 124
1957	340	115	+ 225
1958	410	93	+ 317
1959	400	147	+ 253
1960	290	166	+ 124

GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES

Laboratory Facilities.

Pathological specimens are sent to the laboratory at Musgrove Park Hospital, which forms part of the Public Health Laboratory Service. Results of investigations are available with the minimum of delay and there is good liaison between the

laboratory personnel and the field workers in the Public Health Department.

Examinations carried out during the year include:-

Milk samples	30
Water samples	52
Ice cream samples	84

Hospitals.

Hospitals in the area are administered by the South Western Regional Hospital Board, through the Bridgwater Area Management Committee.

The hospitals are:-

Bridgwater General Hospital	72 beds
Mary Stanley Nursing Home	31 beds
Northgate Lodge	60 beds

Cases of infectious diseases needing hospital treatment, or isolation, are admitted to Taunton Isolation Hospital.

As in previous reports I must again draw attention to the inadequate conditions at Bridgwater General Hospital to provide satisfactory cover for the area which it serves. The existing casualty department is quite unsuitable for the demands made upon it, and the total shortage of beds and unsuitability of existing beds to meet present day requirements means that far too many patients from this area are transferred elsewhere to receive treatment which could well be provided locally. It is estimated that each year approximately 800 to 900 patients from Bridgwater area are admitted to hospitals elsewhere. In so far as casualties are concerned, the annual attendances have risen from 12,884 in 1947 to 20,911 in 1960.

Ante-Natal Clinics.

Doctors' ante-natal clinics are held three times a week at the Mary Stanley Nursing Home and are staffed by general practitioners from the town who are interested in maternity work. The clinics help to cement the relationship between patient, midwife and doctor and are particularly valuable.

The usual clinics held at the Health Centre on the first Monday and the third Wednesday of the month for taking blood samples from expectant mothers for determination of Rhesus Factor, blood grouping, etc., are continued as heretofore.

Relaxation Classes.

These classes are attended by about 25 expectant mothers at a time, and are held fortnightly at the Health Centre. Following short talks on "Parentcraft" by Doctor, Health Visitor or Midwife, relaxation instruction is given by a physiotherapist.

Mothers' Club.

This club, which meets at the Health Centre, has a membership of over 60 mothers. The average attendance at each fortnightly meeting is 45-50. After listening to a speaker or seeing an educational film, the mothers enjoy a social evening together. The club has proved most popular with the mothers for whom it has been a most welcome change from domestic chores.

The mothers also help the Infant Welfare Clinic by taking charge of the play room during infant welfare sessions.

Infant Welfare Clinics.

Infant Welfare Clinics are held as follows:-

The Health Centre, Mount Street.	Tuesday, 2.00 to 4.30 p.m. Friday, 2.00 to 4.00 p.m.
The Community Centre, Bath Road Estate.	2nd and 4th Thursday in month, 2.00 to 4.00 p.m.
Greenfields, Hamp Estate.	2nd and 4th Tuesday in month, 2.00 to 4.00 p.m.

Once again I must draw attention to the unsuitability of the existing Community Centre at Bath Road Estate, both for Infant Welfare Clinic purposes and for general use in connection with community activities. It is therefore to be hoped that the measures which the Council now propose to meet this need will be pursued with vigour.

Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics.

The Health Centre, Mount Street.	Friday, 11.00 a.m.
The Community Centre, Bath Road Estate.	A special clinic is now held on the first Friday in each month at 10.15 a.m.

Polio Immunisation Clinics.

The Health Centre, Mount Street.	The first Monday in each month from 6.30 to 7.00 p.m. Thursday, 4.00 to 4.30 p.m. Friday, 11.00 a.m. (for babies).
The Community Centre, Bath Road Estate.	The first Friday in each month at 10.15 a.m.

School Clinic.

A school medical officer attends a school clinic each Monday morning from 10.00 a.m., at the Health Centre, Mount Street, and is available to advise parents on any health matters concerning their children. Many parents avail themselves of this opportunity to discuss their children's health with the school doctor, in addition to the interviews which are part of the routine school medical examination.

School nurses attend minor ailments clinics at the Health Centre, from 9.00 to 11.00 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Minor ailment clinics are also held at Hamp Junior School on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and Bath Road Junior School on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9.30 a.m.. This arrangement of holding nurses' clinics in the more distant schools has much to commend it when adequate facilities are available.

Other clinics held at the Health Centre, Mount Street, include:-

Chest Clinic	Monday, Tuesday and Thursday a.m. and Wednesday all day.
Orthopaedic Clinic	Monday a.m.
Speech Therapy Clinic	Tuesday p.m. and Friday all day
Child Guidance Clinic	Tuesday a.m.
Breathing Exercises Clinic	Wednesday p.m.
Artificial Sunlight Clinic	Tuesday and Friday p.m.

Friarn Street Day Nursery.

This nursery, administered by the County Council, is available for children aged 6 months to 5 years. A list of priorities has been drawn up by the Council and a local admission committee decides which children should be admitted. Admission is granted mainly on grounds of economic difficulty or unsatisfactory housing conditions. Accommodation is available for 25 children. The average daily attendance during 1960 was 19 children. Extension of the Internal Relief Road will involve demolition of the existing nursery, but provision has been made to build a new nursery on a nearby site.

Ambulance Service.

An Ambulance and Hospital Car Service is provided by the County Council through the agency of Voluntary Organisations. The local headquarters is at 7 West Street, Bridgwater. Ambulances are controlled by radio communication from a central control at Taunton, and a satisfactory service is provided. Redevelopment of the West Street area will involve the demolition of the present ambulance station. Plans have been approved to provide a new County Council Ambulance station on a site adjoining that of the proposed new day nursery. This station will be provided and maintained directly by the County Council.

Home Help Service.

This service is provided by the County Council, with local administration by the Home Help Organiser, with an office at the Health Centre, Mount Street.

Once again the Home Helps have proved of very considerable value and much assistance was given to needy cases. During the year 237 cases received assistance.

These included the following types of cases:-

Maternity	25
Old age and infirmity	132
Tuberculosis	4
Chronic sick	42
Post operation	10
Emergency illness	15
Other cases	9

In many cases assisted, the patient or other members of the family would have been unable to remain at home, were it not for the Home Help Service.

In addition to the normal service, arrangements have been made for women to sit up with seriously ill cases where alternative arrangements cannot be made.

The number of Home Helps at 31.12.60 was as follows:-

Full time	15
Part time	32

National Assistance Act, 1948 - Section 47.

A number of cases were assisted through informal action, and in no case was it necessary for the Council to take statutory action to secure the admission of an old person to suitable accommodation.

Borough Mortuary.

45 post mortem examinations were carried out at the Borough mortuary during 1960. This compares with 35 in the previous year.

Proposed extension of the Clare Street car park will involve demolition of the existing mortuary. The present building has served its purpose but it falls short of modern standards and alteration and renovation would prove expensive. Its passing will not therefore be regretted. The possibility of the Local Authorities and the Hospital Authorities sharing a mortuary at Bridgwater General Hospital is being investigated. This would facilitate the provision of a mortuary more in keeping with present day standards without throwing an undue burden on local resources.

Welfare of Old People.

The various organisations to which reference was made in previous reports have continued to play an important part in contributing to the welfare of old people. The inclusion of chiropody treatment as part of the National Health Service has helped to fill a great need and has been much appreciated by the old people. The Borough of Bridgwater Association for the Welfare of Old People have for some years operated a chiropody scheme for old people and the County Council now help considerably in relieving the Association of the financial burden of operating their scheme. Experience may show however that the continuation of two schemes for providing a chiropody service in the Borough are unnecessary and the Association for the Welfare of Old People may consider that the time has come when they should

direct their activities through some other channel to be of greatest assistance to old people.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Disposal of Refuse.

Refuse disposal is by Controlled Tipping and use is made of many claypits surrounding the town, as tipping sites. The tip at present in use is situated unduly close to a residential area, and the strictest control over tipping technique is essential if nuisance is to be avoided.

Disinfection.

The disinfection centre is working satisfactorily and 12 disinfections were carried out during the year.

Water Supplies.

Regular bacteriological examinations of existing supplies have been made of both the raw water and the water going into supply.

Results were as follows:-

Ashford Reservoir.

Untreated water. Five samples were examined, all of which showed evidence of contamination

Water after treatment. 33 samples were examined and 28 gave excellent results. Of the remaining five tests, three were of a minor nature and were taken from the same tap in an endeavour to trace the source of pollution. The remaining two tests were of a more serious nature and coincided with a warm dry spell of weather and the commencement of work in connection with the Hawkridge reservoir. The combination of both these factors led to heavy pollution of the stream and for a period great difficulty was experienced in adequately treating the water.

Durleigh Reservoir.

Untreated water. Five samples were examined, all of which showed evidence of contamination.

Water after treatment. Nineteen samples were examined, 17 of which gave excellent results.

Routine chemical analysis of the Durleigh and Ashford supplies showed moderately hard waters containing some organic pollution. A detailed report of the Durleigh supply was as follows:-

Report of Chemical Analysis of Sample of Water

Received on 5th April, 1960.

Labelled: Raw water. Durleigh Reservoir. Direct dipping.
Untreated.

				<u>Parts per million</u>
Physical Characters	...	...	...	Slightly turbid and yellow
Reaction	...	...	...	Alkaline
pH	...	...	...	8.3
Free Carbon Dioxide	...	...	...	NIL
Total Solids	...	...	...	285.0
Total Alkalinity (as CaCO_3)				160.0
Carbonate Hardness	"	"		160.0
Non-carbonate	"	"		50.0
Total Hardness	"	"		210.0
Chloride (as Cl)	...	...		24.0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (as N)	...			0.038
Albuminoid	"	"	...	0.27
Nitrate	"	"	...	4.0
Nitrite	"	"	...	0.012
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 4 hours at 27° C.			...	2.1
Sediment	...	...	...	Trace: living organisms present.

This is a moderately hard water, of alkaline reaction, containing some organic pollution.

Swimming Baths.

Treatment of the water in the swimming baths is regularly supervised. Modern plant enables the water to be turned over every six hours and at the same time to be filtered and purified. Bacteriological examination of the water was carried out on 15 occasions and of these 13 reached the standard of purity required for domestic drinking water supplies.

The Lido swimming baths have proved so popular that there has at times been a danger of overcrowding and the Council therefore decided to build an intermediate pool which when completed will materially relieve the congestion, especially at the shallower ends of the existing big bath.

Sewage Disposal.

Work on renewing the Eastover trunk sewer continued slowly during the year.

Housing.

Number of permanent dwellings in Borough 7,735

Number of permanent dwellings owned by
Local Authority 3,144

Number of houses demolished or closed during
the year as a result of formal or informal
action 36

	Houses erected during year		Houses in course of erection	
	For Slum Clear- ance	For other pur- poses	For Slum Clear- ance	For other pur- poses
Local Authority	25	71	28	62
Private Enterprise	-	81	-	37

In addition to action taken in respect of Slum Clearance, steps have also been taken to render fit houses which can be made fit at reasonable cost. This is a most important measure in maintaining a reasonable standard of housing by delaying houses from getting into such a state that representation under Section 16 of the Housing Act 1957, is necessary. 60 such houses were made fit during the year.

Advantage has also been taken of Improvement Grants made under the Housing Act, 1949 - 54, but it has been on a small scale. 20 applications in respect of 20 dwellings were received.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959

The following particulars indicate the action taken under Part I of the Factories Act, 1937.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		Occupiers Prosecuted
		Inspection	Written Notices	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	12	18	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	144	236	7	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	12	11	-	-
Total	168	265	7	-

	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Insp.	By H.M. Insp.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	6	6			
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1			
(b) Unsuitable or defective	49	45		9	
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)					
Total	56	52		9	

PART VIII

		Section 110			Section 111		
		No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in un- wholesome premises	Noti- ces served	Prose- cutions
ring) arel)	Making etc., Cleaning and Washing	66					

STAFF EXAMINATIONS

Medical examinations carried out by the Department in connection with new appointments to the Council's staff, and in connection with the Superannuation Scheme and the Workmen's Sickness Benefit Regulations, were as follows:-

<u>Department</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Town Clerk	-	9	9
Borough Engineer	51	-	51
Borough Architect	16	1	17
Borough Treasurer	4	1	5
Housing	3	1	4
Health	-	1	1
	74	13	87

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS
AND CONTAGIOUS DISEASES

The following table sets out the cases of notifiable diseases that occurred in the Borough during 1960. The table is drawn up after making the necessary corrections in diagnosis by either the practitioners or the Medical Officers at the Isolation Hospitals

Disease	Under 1 yr.	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-64	Age unknown	Total	Admitted to Hospital
Scarlet fever			1		1									2	
Whooping cough	5		4	3	2	7								21	
Poliomyelitis							1							1	1
Measles		1		2										3	
Dysentery	1	3	5	2	5	5	5	2	1	3	2	4		38	
Pneumonia			1			1				1		2		5	
Puerperal pyrexia									1	1				2	
Undulant fever											1			1	
Total	6	4	11	7	8	13	6	2	2	5	3	6		73	1

During the previous year 294 cases of notifiable infectious diseases were notified.

Acute Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis).

One case was notified during the year.

Poliomyelitis Vaccination.

During the year the age limit for those eligible for polio immunisation was raised to 40 years, and as in the previous years visits were made to all the larger factories in the area and all persons who wished it, were immunised or were given the third reinforcing injection.

The following table shows the number of persons who received a course of primary vaccination (two injections) and number of persons who received a third (reinforcing) injection during the year 1960.

Children born 1943 - 1960	Young Persons born 1933 - 1942	Persons under 40 years of age	Persons over 40 years & Priority Groups	No. of persons (all groups) who recd. a third (re- inforcing) injection
510	212	865	36	3992

Measles.

3 cases of measles were notified during the year.

Scarlet Fever.

2 cases were notified.

Tuberculosis.

12 new cases of respiratory tuberculosis were notified in 1960, as compared with 11 in 1959. No new cases of non-respiratory tuberculosis were notified.

	<u>Respiratory</u>	<u>Non-respiratory</u>
Number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at 31.12.60	160	13
Number of new cases during the year	12	-
Number of deaths during the year	-	-

The following table shows the sex and age groups of cases notified during the year:-

Age:-	Under 5	5/14	15/24	25/44	45/64	65 & over	Age unknown	Total
Male		1	3	3	1	1	1	10

B.C.G. Vaccination.

In order to raise the immunity to tuberculosis of school leavers, vaccination with B.C.G. vaccine was offered to to all children between the ages of 13 and 14 years, attending schools in the Mid-Somerset Divisonal Area. 675 accepted the offer and received a preliminary skin test, the "Heaf Test", to determine whether they had in fact already experienced some infection with tuberculosis. 359 of these gave a negative test and were vaccinated with the B.C.G. vaccine.

Mass Radiography.

A Mass Radiography Unit visited the larger factories in the area during the year and was stationed at the Health Centre, to enable the general public to avail themselves of the opportunity of being examined. The response to the visit was excellent, 2,760 persons attended at the Health Centre and 4,741 at the factories. The very high total of 7,501 persons therefore attended for chest X-ray.

Food Poisoning.

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

Diphtheria.

No cases of diphtheria were notified. During the year 372 children under the age of 5 years and 134 children between the ages of 5 - 15 years were immunised against diphtheria, giving a total of 506.

Undulant Fever.

A Bridgwater resident was taken ill while on holiday at the seaside and was found to be suffering from Undulant Fever. Enquiry revealed that he usually drank T.T. unpasteurised milk which was obtained from a local dairy. Investigations confirmed a limited brucella infection in the herd and use was made of Section 20 of the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations 1959, to secure heat treatment of the milk. These restrictions on the sale of the milk were later removed when the infection was found to be cleared. Although only one patient was found to suffer from undulant fever, the number of persons consuming the raw milk was relatively high and it is obvious therefore that virulence of the brucella organism is not great.

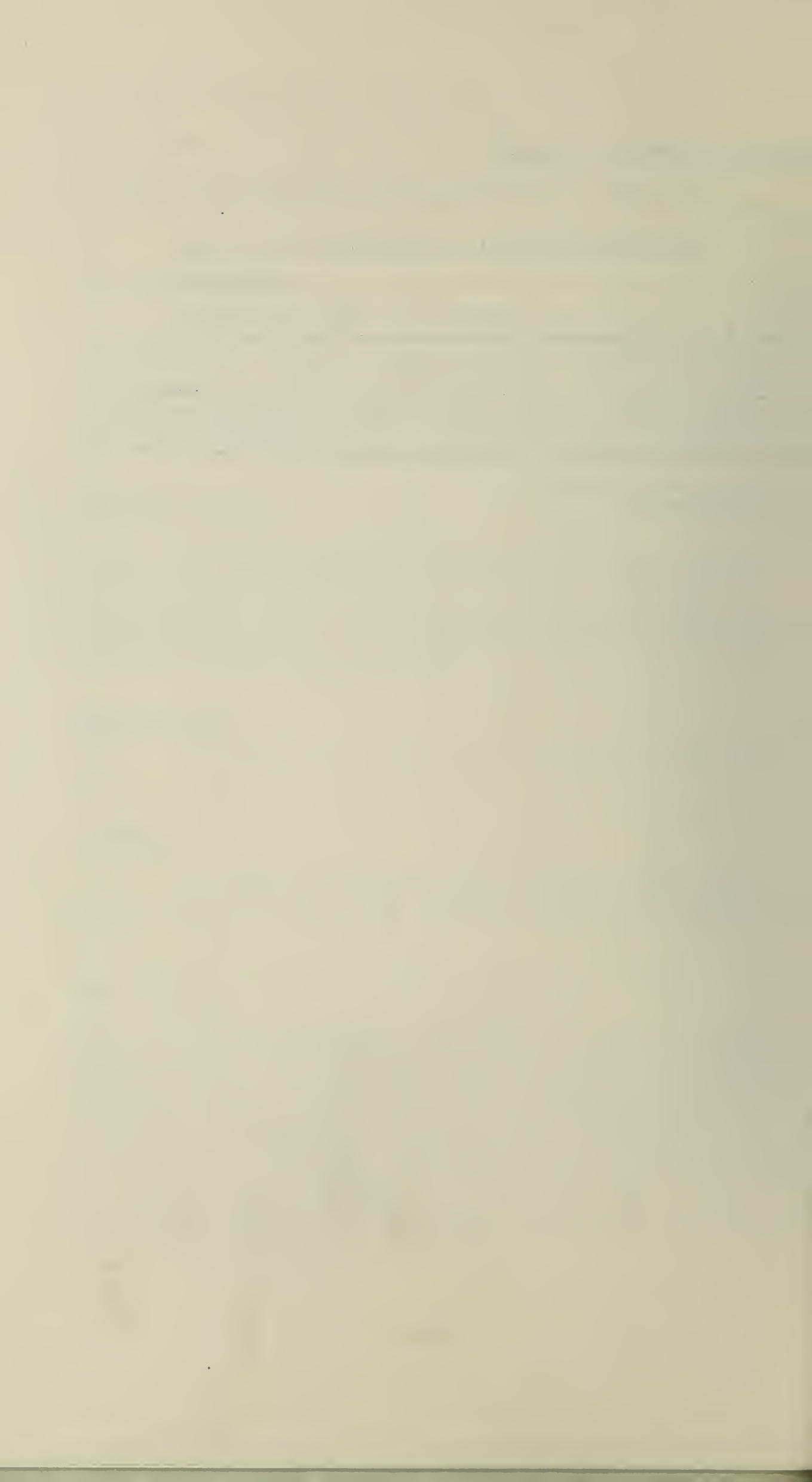
Vaccination against Smallpox.

The number of primary vaccinations against smallpox showed an increase as compared with the previous year.

Persons vaccinated (or re-vaccinated) in 1960

Under 1		1		2 to 4		5 to 14		15 or over		Totals	
P	R	P	R	P	R	P	R	P	R	P	R
139	-	10	-	8	-	2	7	1	4	160	11

P = Primary vaccination
R = Re-vaccination



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH

INSPECTOR FOR 1960

To:-

The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of
Bridgwater.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year
ending 31st December, 1960.

Complaints

During the year numerous complaints were received and dealt
with under the Public Health or Housing Acts and in addition
there were approximately 300 complaints of rat or mouse
infestation.

165 preliminary notices and 4 statutory notices were served.
In no case was it necessary to take legal proceedings.

Housing

111 houses were inspected for the purpose of having defects
remedied whilst 68 houses were systematically inspected under
the Housing Regulations. Further properties in the West Street
Redevelopment Area were purchased for the purpose of demolition.

During the year 36 houses were demolished or closed as the
result of formal or informal action.

The inspection of accommodation occupied by applicants on
the Housing Waiting List still entails a considerable amount of
work.

The schedule at the end of the report gives the amount of
repair work carried out under notice to existing houses.

The number of houses found to be verminous was 5, a con-
siderable decrease on the figure of 10 for 1959.

6 cases of overcrowding were abated during the year and 2 new
cases were found on inspection. The number of cases known at
the end of the year was 9. The majority of these cases are in
non-parlour type Council houses whose permitted number is low and
where the degree of overcrowding is very slight.

Rent Act, 1957

There have been no applications for Certificates of Disrepair
during the year.

The following table gives the amount of work carried out
under the Act since it came into force.

No. of applications received	60
No. of houses inspected	60
Form J's sent to Owners	60
Form K's received from Owners	34

Repairs completed	48
Repairs in hand	6
Applications withdrawn - Tenants purchased house	3
Certificates of Disrepair issued	25
Certificates of Disrepair revoked	15

Infectious Diseases

Enquiries are made in cases of notifiable disease and disinfection is carried out free of cost. In other cases a charge is made. The disinfecting plant at Market Street is functioning satisfactorily.

Food

The inspection of food and the premises in which it is prepared for sale or sold is one of the most important duties of the Department. The coming into force of the Food Hygiene Regulations has increased this work and a great deal of time has been spent in inspecting premises, advising shopkeepers on improvements required, serving notices and supervising the alterations.

(i) The number of food premises, other than stalls, in the Borough is 258, made up as follows:-

Grocers (including wholesalers)	79
Confectioners (Sweetmeats)	22
Bakers	13
Licensed Premises	63
Greengrocers (including wholesalers)	11
Fishmongers	4
Fried Fish Shops	7
Restaurants, Unlicensed Hotels, Canteens and Kiosks	16
Canteens	12
Cooked Meats etc.	4
Butchers	27
Stalls (including St. Matthews Fair)	85

(ii) The number of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 is 104.

Ice-Cream Premises	79
Potted, Pressed, Pickled and Preserved Foods	25
The number of firms retailing milk in the Borough is	17

All milk sold in the Borough is either Pasteurised, Sterilised or Tuberculin Tested.

The number of samples of graded milk examined during the year was 30 with the following results.

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Not Satisfactory</u>	<u>Total</u>
Pasteurised	12	-	12
T.T. (Pasteurised)	13	-	13
T.T.	2	2	4
Sterilised	1	-	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	28	2	30
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

(iii) The number of inspections of registered food premises is given in the summary at the end of the report.

(iv) In connection with the visits to food premises the following foods were condemned.

Beef	2 cwt. 108 lbs.
Bacon	1 cwt. 45½ lbs.
Wet Fish	50 lbs.
Canned Fish	126 Tins
Canned Meat	437 Tins
Canned Fruit	1,176 Tins
Canned Vegetables	422 Tins
Canned Soup	121 Tins
Canned Milk	139 Tins
Jam	10 Tins and Jars
Cheese	15 lbs.
Poultry	2 Ducks and 16 Chickens
Other Foods	1 cwt. 104 lbs.

The food condemned was disposed of at the Corporation Refuse Tip.

(v) No special examination of a stock or consignment of food has been necessary.

(vi) Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations, 1947 - 1952

The number of premises registered for the manufacture or sale of ice-cream is as follows:-

Registered for manufacture and sale	0
Registered for sale	79

No ice-cream is now manufactured in the Borough and practically the whole of the ice-cream retailed is wrapped.

84 samples of ice-cream were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year and these were graded as follows:-

Grade 1	82
Grade 2	2
Grade 3	-
Grade 4	-

These results are exceptionally good, and much more satisfactory than those obtained last year.

(vii) Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955

A great deal more work has been carried out under the above Regulations and most premises now comply with the standard of hygiene prescribed. Attention was given to the smaller type of shop. The table in the Summary at the end of the report gives details of the work accomplished. No prosecutions were taken during the year.

Meat Inspection

All slaughtering in the Borough is now concentrated at the Cattle Market Slaughterhouse. This has enabled the work of meat inspection to be carried out under very much better conditions. The volume of meat inspection has more than doubled during the year and the evidence points to this figure being greatly increased during 1961.

The following tables give details of the carcasses inspected, the weight of meat condemned and the causes of condemnation.

Carcasses Inspected

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number Killed	539	106	3,336	2,801	3,051	9,833
Number Examined	539	106	3,336	2,801	3,051	9,833

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or in Part

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses	Total
<u>All diseases except T.B. & Cysticerci</u>							
Whole carcasses condemned	6 †	15	23	33	14	-	91
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	60	30	8	157	260	-	415
% of the No. in- spected affected with disease other than T.B. or cysticerci	10.4	42.4	0.9	6.8	8.9	-	5.2
<u>T.B. only</u>							
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	2	-	-	72	-	75
% of the No. in- spected affected with T.B.	0.9	1.89	-	-	2.36	-	0.76
<u>Cysticercosis</u>							
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	5	-	-	-	-	-	5
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	5	-	-	-	-	-	5
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Weight of meat condemned (in lbs) for</u>							
(a) Tuberculosis	17	60	-	-	799	-	876
(b) Cysticercosis	177	-	-	-	-	-	177
(c) Other	2,427	7,014	1,084	1,846	2,452	-	14,823
<u>Total (in lbs) condemned</u>	2,621	7,074	1,084	1,846	3,251	-	15,876

† including 4 stirks.

Three goats were slaughtered during the year and the carcasses and offals were found to be fit for human consumption.

	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Total</u>
Animals slaughtered for emergency reasons	14	36	67	26	48	191

Conditions Rendering Carcase Meat and Organs Unfit for Human Consumption

Disease	Cattle (excluding Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Abscesses	270	64	12	18	31
Actinobacillosis	53	-	-	-	-
Actinomycosis	59	88	-	-	-
Angioma	43	98	-	-	-
Arthritis	-	12	-	2	-
Bruising	20	461	15	139	37
Cirrhosis	13	39	-	5	32
Congestion	12	17	-	11	16
C. Bovis	177	-	-	-	-
C. Ovis	-	-	-	1	1
Caseous Lymphadenitis	-	-	-	3	-
Decomposition	-	-	-	-	133 (2)
Distomatosis	174	61	-	82	-
Echinococcus cysts	24	-	-	-	-
Emaciation (Pathological)	684 (3)	1,370 (4)	277 (5)	662 (18)	-
Fatty change	-	36	-	16	-
Fever (Pyrexia)	-	560 (1)	60 (1)	-	-
Gangrene	-	866 (2)	-	-	196 (1)
Gangrenous Pneumonia	-	-	60 (1)	-	-
Hydronephrosis	-	-	-	-	2
Immaturity	-	-	35 (2)	-	-
Inflammatory conditions	29	-	28 (1)	13	185
Mastitis	-	83	-	14	-
Melanosis	-	-	-	-	10
Metritis, acute septic	-	-	-	-	330 (1)
Milk spots	-	-	-	-	196
Moribund	520 (1)	-	323 (7)	239 (4)	572 (6)
Nephritis	-	2	-	-	8
Oedema	190 (1)	3,203 (8)	147 (4)	359 (10)	-
Parasitical conditions	-	-	-	188	44
Pericarditis	-	7	2	-	12
Pericarditis acute, septic	220 (1)	-	-	-	-
Pleurisy	-	-	-	2	9
Pneumonia	104	29	-	15	296
Pneumonia, acute septic	-	-	60 (1)	-	85 (1)
Pyæmia	-	-	65 (1)	-	-
Swine Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	256 (3)
Toxaemia	-	-	-	75 (1)	-
Tuberculosis	17	60	-	-	799
Tumours	12	18	-	2	-
Urticaria	-	-	-	-	2

(Weight in lbs.)

Total weight of meat and offals condemned:- 7 Tons, 1 cwt.
and 3 qtrs.

The general quality of butchers meat inspected was exceptionally good. Most of the carcasses rejected as being unfit for human consumption were from animals slaughtered for emergency reasons.

Swimming Baths

With the opening of the Broadway Lido the taking of samples of water from the Swimming Baths was resumed. 15 samples were examined and all but 2 were satisfactory.

Caravans

There is one licensed caravan site in the Borough, but during the year 4 licences were issued to station single caravans on appropriate sites.

Rats and Mice Destruction

Two fully trained Rodent Operators are employed to carry out the destruction of rats and mice. The sewers were treated half yearly and the refuse tip on 4 occasions. The following table sets out details of the work carried out during the year.

	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	Business & Industrial Premises	Total
Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1960 as a result of					
(a) Notification	(a) 12	213	-	39	264
(b) Survey or otherwise	(b) 24	3,195	16	196	3,413
Total inspections carried out including re-inspection	63	3,608	19	322	4,012
Number of properties inspected (see Section 1) which were found to be infested with rats	Major 3 Minor 22	2 148	- 4	2 22	7 196
Number of properties inspected (see Section 1) which were found to be infested with mice	Major - Minor 2	1 74	- -	4 17	5 93
Number of properties treated by Local Authority (see Sections 3 and 4)	27	225	-	43	295

Staff

There have been no staff changes during the year.

Summary

Inspections made during the year

General Sanitation

Water Supply	92
Drainage	814
Stable and Piggeries	34
Factories	294
Outworkers	119
Rodent Control	469
Shops	417
Caravan Sites	64
Swimming Baths	11
Public Conveniences	76
Atmospheric Pollution	52
Heating Appliances	3
Pet Shops	7
Miscellaneous	875
Licensed Premises	39

Housing

Houses inspected under Public Health Acts	111
Visits paid to the above houses	401
Houses inspected under the Housing Acts	68
Visits paid to the above houses	139
Houses inspected under the Rent Act	2
Visits paid under the Rent Act	41
Houses inspected during Housing Survey	77
Houses inspected in connection with overcrowding	24
Visits paid to the above houses	27
Verminous premises inspected	11
Visits paid to the above premises	42
Miscellaneous	417

Infectious Diseases

Inquiries in cases of Infectious Diseases	10
Visits re disinfection	6
Miscellaneous	10

Meat and Food Inspection

Visits to Slaughterhouses	645
Visits to Shops and Stalls	88
Visits to Butchers	141
Visits to Confectioners	24
Visits to Fishmongers and Poulterers	12
Visits to Grocers	220
Visits to Greengrocers and Fruiterers	16
Visits to Bakers and Confectioners	22
Visits to Fried Fish Shops	10
Visits to Dairies and Milk Distributors	33
Visits to Ice-cream Premises	70
Visits for Ice-Cream Samples	84
Visits to Restaurants and Catering Establishments	53
Visits to Food Preparing Premises	54
Visits to Licensed Premises	112
Visits to Street Vendors	29
Visits to Market Stalls	142
Visits for Samples of Milk (Bacteriological)	30
Miscellaneous	79

Explosives

Visits in connection with Explosives	68
Visits in connection with Petroleum Spirit	94

Work Done

Public Health and Housing

Choked drains and sewers cleared	31
Drains relaid	2
Drains or sewers repaired	40
Inspection chambers provided or repaired	6
Defective ceilings repaired	11
Defective chimneys repaired	10
Defective doors repaired	11
Defective eavesgutters and downpipes repaired	19
Defective firegrates and ranges repaired	8
Defective floors repaired	10
Defective flushing cisterns repaired or renewed	7
Defective wall plastering repaired	9
Defective roofs repaired	33
Defective scullery troughs repaired or renewed	5
Defective scullery wastepipes repaired	1
Defective staircases repaired	3
Defective walls repaired	6
Defective water closets repaired or renewed	14
Defective windows repaired or renewed	12
Defective yard paving	7
Dampness remedied	9
Flushing cisterns provided	1
Scullery waste pipes provided	1
Sashcords renewed	4
Overcrowding abated	6
Smoke nuisances abated	6
Verminous premises cleansed	5
Premises disinfested from rats or mice	295
Other nuisances abated	9
Accumulations removed	10
Urinals cleansed	1
External painting renewed (Rent Act)	2
Dangerous buildings demolished	1

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955

Protection against contamination provided	12
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Washing - Food and Equipment

Sinks provided or renewed	4
Cold water supply provided	4
Hot water supply provided	4
Clean cloths provided	2

Washing - Hands

Washbasins provided or renewed	10
Cold water supply provided	6
Hot water supply provided	16
Towels provided	11
Handbrushes provided	10

<u>W.C. Compartments</u>	
Artificial lighting provided	5
Ventilation provided	4
Notice to wash hands provided	13
Decorated	3
W.C. pans renewed	2
Provision of intervening ventilated space compartment	3

<u>Food Rooms</u>	
Walls repaired	5
Walls cleansed	10
Floors repaired	2
Floors cleansed	1
Ceilings repaired	2
Ceilings cleansed	11
Bowls provided in lieu of sinks for food and equipment	10
Use of Detergents commenced	9
First Aid Kit provided	3
Name and address displayed on stalls	4
Impervious surfaces provided	10
Provision of protective clothing	-
Clothing accommodation provided	2
New food rooms provided	1
Raising of food above 18" on forecourts	2
Delivery vans cleansed	1

Public Health Act, Sect. 89

New Ladies toilet accommodation provided	2
New Gents toilet accommodation provided	2
Urinals cleansed and redecorated	2
W.C. compartments cleansed and redecorated	1
W.C. compartments repaired	1
Washing facilities provided	1
Artificial lighting to W.C. compartments provided	1
Forms provided	87
Heating provided	2

Factories Acts

Artificial lighting provided to W.C.'s	18
Sanitary conveniences cleansed	23
Sanitary conveniences provided	1
Sanitary conveniences repaired	9
Intervening ventilated space provided	15
Miscellaneous nuisances abated	8

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

R.K. LEAN,

Chief Public Health Inspector

